



Cross Talk

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving, engaging, and serving our neighbors

FROM YOUR PASTOR

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In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This Lenten theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshiping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Our sub-title, *A Lenten Refrain*, speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.



In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

As your pastor, I look forward in sharing this journey with each of our families. Soak in the devotional, the Lenten boxes, the poetry, the artwork, the daily cards, the social media blurbs, prayer time, worship times, and so much more that will consistently demonstrate God's active participation in our lives.

May you live in the refrain:

Again & Again.

Rev. Katie Osier



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

7 Reese Cowgar

10 Caleb Smesko

14 Jim Kocsis

16 Gina Laterza

18 Ryan Osier

25 Jaclyn Oplinger

26 Gary McLaughlin

**If you would like added to our newsletter birthday and/or anniversary calendar contact the office.*



FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Bob & Pam Milhoan

WORSHIP AND RELAUNCH

After meeting with ReLaunch and One Board (our administrative team), it was decided by majority vote that it is best for the church to continue with online worship at 10 AM for the time being. ReLaunch will get back together in early February to gather more information and reflect further on a timeline.

Do not lose hope. The action the church takes in remaining online helps keep each attendee safe. This also means we need to do ministry and connection in other ways. Who have you missed seeing? Who needs a little extra care and love? I dare each of us to take time to reach out to those on our hearts this month. Share a little love. Connect with someone you haven't talked to in awhile. If you need some ideas as to who, please contact the church and we can connect you.

AGAIN & AGAIN: A LENTEN REFRAIN

You are invited to share in this journey as the GUMC explores this Lenten Refrain: Again & Again. Here are some ways to participate.



Lenten Boxes/Bags:

The week of February 7, each household will receive a bag and box with various materials to experience and process the refrain each week. If you did not receive one by February 17, please let the church office know if you would like one and it will be delivered or mailed to you.

Daily Devotional:

If you are interested in a daily devotional for this series, please contact the church office. It contains all the art and poetry of the series as well as the reflections of the season. We can either send you a hard copy or a digital version for your use.

Ash Wednesday Interactive Service, February 17 @ 7:00 PM:

Join the Osier family online as we celebrate an interactive Ash Wednesday service. Coming around the table or in the comfort of your living room, gather a candle and lighter, a Bible and pen or markers/crayons/colored pencils, printed bulletins and doodle page for each participant (on the website), your family Lent box, some oil, and a device to watch and participate in the service. A link will be available through the church's website, Facebook Page, and YouTube Page (Greensburg UMC).

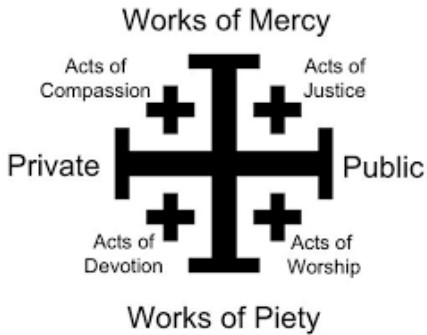
Sunday Online Worship Services, starting February 21 @ 10 AM

Now on the Website, Facebook Page, and YouTube!

FUNDING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GUMC

OPERATING BUDGET	Giving General	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
December 2020	\$ 62,595.44	\$ 18,872.81	\$ 22,190.12
Year to Date	\$284,179.02	\$261,939.43	\$ 287,800.00
BUILDING NOTE	Loan Giving	Monthly Payment	Loan Balance
December 2020	\$ 1,276.00	\$ 2624.10	\$105,412.73

Note: The year end figure for 2020 includes \$39,500.05 in Payroll Protection Funds which were obtained in May 2020.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

Starting Sunday, February 28, those interested in joining Greensburg UMC are invited to an online, 4 week class to begin the process of membership (Class time will depend on those interested). The class will cover spiritual gifts, UMC Theology, UMC order, and time with Faith Friends to connect members to the church fellowship. The church will receive new members on Easter Sunday, April 4.

If you are interested, please contact the church office (office@greensburgumc.net or 330.896.1936) or feel free to contact Rev. Katie (rev.katie.osier@gmail.com) if you have further questions or have specific needs.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Starting Wednesday, February 17, children of all ages are welcome to participate in the virtual Kid's Lent Event: Again & Again! Each week, through GUMC's Facebook and YouTube pages, children will spend time with Amy Dvorak, Rev. David and Beth Weyrick in fun, songs, puppetry, "Words of the Day," visits to GUM Avenue, Bible readings, crafts, and explanations of Lent.

TO SIGN UP: please contact Rev. David Weyrick at davidspc@icloud.com or contact the church office (office@greensburgumc.net or 330.896.1936). Once signed up, you will be given information on how to pick up crafts and other goodies for the season as well as the link for the season's videos.



Feb 17— April 4

Share this with neighbors, children, and grandchildren as well. This is a quality online event—one not to miss! Sign up today!

STUDENT MINISTRY

Here is what is coming up in February. The zoom meeting ID is **829 2413 8941**. Look for the password online through email or Remind. Andrea, Marilyn, and Rev. Katie look forward to seeing you!

Wednesday, February 3 @ 7 PM: Online Check-in and Family Feud

Sunday, February 7 @ 1 PM: SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY. Gather as many cans of soup as you can and **bring them to the church** for Green Good Neighbors. The student with the most wins a gift card. **While at the church,** we will be putting together Lent boxes for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall, including some extra goodies for our shut-ins. Please come masked. We will have hand sanitizer and distanced stations. That night, if we so desire, we will meet online and play games, watch the game, or just hang out.

Wednesday February 10 @ 7 PM: Online Lent Discussion and games

Sunday, February 14 @ 5:30 PM: Online Pancake (Breakfast) Dinner

Wednesday, February 17 @ 7 PM: ASH WEDNESDAY—interactive service online for the whole family. Facebook or YouTube

Wednesday, February 24: Online Painting—Mini canvas kits will be given out Feb 7 or delivered. Get creative and a snack.

LOVING HANDS PRESCHOOL

Loving Hands



PRESCHOOL

www.loving-hands.org

It's hard to believe that January is here, and it is time to start planning for our 2021-2022 school year!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on:

Tuesday, January 5 at 8am for CURRENT STUDENTS

Tuesday, January 12 @ 8am for RETURNINGFAMILIES/CHURCH MEMBERS

Tuesday, January 19 at 8am for NEW FAMILIES

If you, or anyone you know would be interested in scheduling a tour of our program, please contact Miss Shannon, Preschool Director, at 330-896-1936 or smiller1950@sbcglobal.net.

Greensburg UMC

2161 Greensburg Rd,
North Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936
www.greensburgumc.net

COMMUNICATION FROM:**Bright Hope for Tomorrow Campaign and Trustees Update**

Trustees have designated the remaining funds (\$43,000 est) from Bright Hope to provide for the in the near future replacement of the heating and cooling units that were listed in the initial campaign. In the meantime, the Trustees are preparing for the following work during the Spring and Summer Seasons:

- Sanctuary Renovation (monies designated through choir fundraisers and Ayers fund): this will include revamping the front of the sanctuary regarding space and supports as well as technology.
- Gym floor and wall repair and replacement
- Parking Lot Reseal
- Kitchen Hood Inspection

Renovating these spaces will provide opportunities for current and new ministries that invite people to come and to connect with the family of Greensburg UMC. If you would like to be part of this work, please be encouraged to contribute financially or service and time wise.

CROSS TALK DEADLINE

All articles for the Newsletter need to be submitted to the Office, no later than the 20th. If you wish to be included in the birthdays and anniversary lists or wish to volunteer for an activity or group, please contact the office. Volunteers are always welcome. Thank you, Pam Moore ~ Admin Asst

Mailing REMINDER:

We no longer have the Green PO Box!
2161 Greensburg Rd | North Canton, OH 44720
